

2nd Brigade Combat Team 28th Infantry Division

FROM THE FRONT LINE

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IRAQI POLICE HEAD OFF TO THE ACADEMY

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Iraqi men await verification and transportation from East Camp Habbaniyah to Ar Ramadi for final IP screening.

Photo by submitted by 1/110 Infantry Public Affairs

HABBANIYAH, Iraq – Nearly 200 Officers and new recruits from the Civil and Coolie Camp Iraqi Police Force (IP) left for the IP Academy in Baghdad on 21 April.

During early September 2005, the IP stations in Civil and Coolie Camps re-opened following the terrorist attacks of July 2005. These stations were considered the only operable IP stations in the Al Anbar province during that time period. The Habbaniyah/Khalidiyah District authorities have been working hard the past seven months, to better fortify the stations and arm the IP's willing to work, despite the continued murder and intimidation tactics employed by terrorists frequenting the area. The Officers in Civil and Coolie Camps have managed to uphold public order, and avoid being targeted by the enemy insurgency operating within their maneuver space for almost eight months.

Of the 208 IP's on roster in Civil and Coolie Camps, less than 20% are Academy graduates. On April 21st an overwhelming 60% left for the 10 week IP certification course offered in Baghdad along with over 100 new recruits who will be screened prior to admission. The Academy is designed at training the IP's in proper security measures and current enemy trends observed in urban environments. The IP's will undergo physical conditioning, weapons qualification, patrolling techniques and a variety of useful classes in force protection. Security remains the top priority among the local populous and likewise the number one concern of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MOI).

Under the advisement of the MOI, a Police Transition Team will soon accompany the remaining IPs of Civil and Coolie Camps. They will provide central guidance and work to align the stations in terms of internal operation and external affairs to more closely mimic the way other IP stations do business in neighboring provinces. Together with the Iraqi Army the Civil and Coolie Camp IP's will continue patrol the neighborhoods, handling civil matters and providing security for the local citizens and businesses.

Coalition Forces (CF) are coordinating under the direction of the P3P (Provincial Police Partnership Program) working hand and hand with the Iraqi MOI in order to restore a fully functional IP entity as expeditiously as possible. It is both the goal of Coalition Forces (CF) and their Iraqi brethren to enable Iraqis to take the lead in safeguarding their communities. Transitioning to an Iraqi led security presence and allowing the CF to assume the backseat is the intent both parties are aiming to accomplish. The success of this operation is one more step in the right direction to securing the Al Anbar.